

Dr Beate Schappach

Institute of Theatre Studies, University of Berne, Switzerland

beate.schappach@itw.unibe.ch

Performing AIDS. The Film-maker Rosa von Praunheim between HIV/AIDS-Communities in Germany and the USA

This paper explores the works of German film-maker Rosa von Praunheim during the AIDS crisis. In the 1980ies and 1990ies he produced several films portraying the gay communities in Germany and the USA in the face of AIDS. First, this paper analyses the cinematic techniques von Praunheim uses to criticize the German gay community and present the American practices of performing community as a role model for AIDS-activism. In a second step, the focus is put on von Praunheim's autobiography and the rhetoric strategies he uses to participate in New York's HIV-community, while being HIV-negative himself.